

estates, houses, etc., and it is the duty of the Finance Committee so to manage these as to secure a large part of the money needed to carry on the Church work, for salaries and pensions. Moreover it conducts the general financial affairs of the Province.

Each congregation has its own Board of Elders. The Pastor is chairman, there are certain ex officio members, and others are elected by the congregation. This Board is charged with the material and spiritual welfare of the congregation.

*II. The Outward Growth of the German Province.*—Now you will ask how many congregations there are in the German Province, and where are they? Have they increased in the last half century? Unfortunately the number of members has increased but little; in 1857 there were 6,400 members, and in 1907 about 8,300. How does this come? In America the Brethren's Church has grown far more in the same time! The explanation lies in the vastly different conditions in the two countries. In Germany there can be no aggressive work without conflict with the State Church, and the Unity must be content to maintain its old congregations. New members come from outside the boundaries of the Unity only when actuated by very strong desire, so but few new congregations have been established in fifty years. The German Province numbers 23 congregations, 2 being in Holland, 2 in Switzerland, and the rest in Germany, mostly in the eastern and northern portions. The largest are Herrnhut, the mother congregation and seat of the directing board, with 1,179 members, and Niesky, with 1,168 members.

When the work of the Brethren's Church was restricted in Germany it turned toward Bohemia and Moravia, the home land of the Unity. In 1870 a congregation was organized at Pottenstein, and there are now five congregations and about 1,050 members. But the further story of the Bohemian and Moravian work does not belong here, as it was transferred to the care of the Unity as a whole, and is no longer a special field of the German Province.

*III. Social Life in the German Congregations.*—What is a German congregation like? If we try to picture it we must make a difference between the city congregations and the "settlements." In the former the members live scattered over the city (as in Dresden), or largely gathered near the church, (as in Neuwied). The "settlements" are little towns which the Brethren have built for themselves. These are all much alike in appearance. Usually in the center there is an open square, with trees in it, surrounded by the principal buildings of the congregation. First of all we find the church, built in simple style,